

Message Text

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44

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FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5356

INFO CINCLANT

COMICEDEFOR

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AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

UNCLAS REYKJAVIK 0559

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, US, VN, IC

SUBJECT: FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SAYS US STRONGER
IN WAKE OF VIETNAM

1. PROGRESSIVE PARTY DAILY TIMINN MAY 21 CARRIED ANALYSIS BY EDITOR THORARINN THORARINSSON (WHO IS ALSO CHAIRMAN ALTHING FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE AND PP'S FOREIGN POLICY SPECIALIST AND PARTLIAMENTARY BLOC LEADER) WHICH MAINTAINS THAT US IS IN STRONGER POSITION FOLLOWING VEITNAM SETBACK. THORARINSSON'S VIEWS ON INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS CARRY CONSIDERABLE WEIGHT IN ICELAND, ESPECIALLY WITHIN HIS PARTY. MOREOVER, CURRENT ARTICLE, WHICH GOES TO SOME LENGTH TO PORTRARY ENHANCED US POSITION IN WAKE OF VIETNAM, IS INTERESTING COMPARISON TO THORARINSSON'S HARSH CRITICISM OF AMERICAN POLICY DURING CONFLICT.

2. ARTICLE, ENTITLED "CAPITULATION IN VIETNAM STRENGTHENS US," BEGINS WITH CLAIM THAT OUTCOME WAS INEVITABLE AND THAT PARIS AGREEMENT WAS SHAM. HOWEVER, IT GOES ON,
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RESULT IS ALSO TRIBUTE TO US DEMOCRACY AND TO EXERCISE

OF FREE EXPRESSION BY AMERICANS, WHO REFUSED TO YIELD TO
LEADERS' PRESSURE TO PURSUE WAR. IN ADDITION, US AC-
TUALY EMERGES FROM WAR STRONGER BECAUSE: RESOURCES
AND ATTENTION CAN BE DEVOTED TO OTHER NEEDS; US ALLIES
IN WESTERN EUROPE AND JAPAN CAN BE Surer OF US THAN
THEY WERE WHEN IT WAS BOGGED DOWN IN WAR; IT WILL
BE HARDER FOR DETRACTORS TO SUSTAIN PROPAGANDA THAT US
SEEKS WORLD DOMINATION THROUGH FORCE; AND US NOW HAS
GREATER FLEXIBILITY VIS-A-VIS USSR AND CHINA. ITEM CON-
CLUDES THAT OBVIOUS LESSON FOR US FROM VIETNAM IS
FUTILITY OF PLAYING WORLD POLICEMAN, BUT SAYS THAT US
REMAINS MOST INFLUENTIAL POWER IN WORLD.
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